

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02307 250427Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-08 DOE-15
SOE-02 /062 W

-----109052 250943Z /13

R 250400Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 322

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 2307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ASEAN, US

SUBJ: US REPLY TO ASEAN MEMORANDA

1. SINGAPORE DAILY STRAITS TIMES CARRIED ARTICLE MAY 23
ON US REPLY TO ASEAN MEMORANDUM CONCERNING GSP. STORY
QUOTES US AS SAYING TIME IS NOT RIGHT FOR LIFTING OF GSP
PROHIBITION AGAINST OPEC MEMBER INDONESIA, AND SAYS TWO
REASONS ARE PROBLEMS WITH ENERGY BILL AND FEAR OF
COMPLICATING RELATIONS WITH OTHER OPEC MEMBERS.

2. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS TEMPORIZING US REACTION TO
ASEAN SUGGESTION FOR CUMULATIVE RULE OF ORIGIN FOR
ASEAN GSP EXPORTS AND FURTHER PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR
PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO THE ASSOCIATION. REST OF PIECE
DISCUSSES MECHANICS OF AMERICAN GSP AND MENTIONS DENIAL
OF SINGAPORE/PHILIPPINES REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO GSP.

3. ARTICLE'S AUTHOR TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD ACCESS TO
REPLIES TO ALL ELEVEN ASEAN MEMORANDA, BUT THAT HE
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DID NOT GET THEM FROM SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT. MOST
LIKELY SOURCE IS THEREFORE ONE OF FOUR ASEAN EMBASSIES
IN TOWN. FURTHER STORIES ON OTHER REPLIES, WE
GATHER, ARE LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING.

4. IN CONTRAST TO SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE TONE OF PRESS REPORT,
TRADE DEPT. DEPUTY DIRECTOR TAN SONG CHUAN TOLD AMBASSADOR

AT SOCIAL OCCASION MAY 24 THAT GOS WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE
OF RECENT VISIT HERE BY US GSP BRIEFING TEAM. BRIEFING WAS
EXTREMELY WELL ATTENDED BY LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, AND TAN SAID
SINGAPORE SHOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM INFORMATION CONVEYED
TO COUNTRY'S TRADERS.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: ECIN, US, ASEAN, OPEC
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